

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. In a gaming system having a monetary unit detector, a display portion displaying a plurality of rotatable reels, each reel having a plurality of symbols on its periphery, a controller for rotating said reels and stopping said reels such that at least one symbol on each reel is displayed to a player across at least one payline, an improvement comprising:
  - a plurality of progressive jackpots comprising at least a first jackpot and a second jackpot, said first jackpot being enabled for winning by a player betting a first monetary amount and obtaining a jackpot symbol combination across any activated payline, said second jackpot being enabled for winning by said player betting a second monetary amount and obtaining a jackpot symbol combination across any activated payline; and an award identifier identifying a payment to said player for winning combinations of symbols, including one or more of said jackpots for a jackpot symbol combination.
2. The system of Claim 1 further comprising said display portion displaying said rotatable reels rotated by motors.
- 15 3. The system of Claim 1 further comprising said display portion displaying said rotatable reels on a display screen.
4. The system of Claim 1 wherein said second monetary amount is greater than said first monetary amount.
- 20 5. The system of Claim 1 wherein said first jackpot is accumulated at X percent of monetary amounts received by said gaming system, and said second jackpot is accumulated at Y percent of said monetary amounts received by said gaming system, wherein Y is greater than X.
6. The system of Claim 1 wherein said award identifier identifies the payment to said player of at least the total of said first jackpot and said second jackpot for a jackpot symbol combination when said player has bet said second monetary amount.

7. The system of Claim 1 wherein said award identifier identifies a payment to said player of said second jackpot, but not said first jackpot, for a jackpot symbol combination when said player has bet said second monetary amount.

8. The system of Claim 1 wherein said plurality of progressive jackpots further  
5 comprises a third jackpot being enabled for winning by said player betting a third monetary amount greater than said second monetary amount.

9. The system of Claim 1 wherein said gaming system comprises a single slot machine, wherein said plurality of progressive jackpots are associated with said single slot machine.

10. 10. The system of Claim 1 wherein said gaming system comprises a group of slot machines, and monetary amounts received by any of said slot machines in said group of slot machines contributes to said plurality of progressive jackpots.

11. The system of Claim 1 wherein said gaming system includes at least one slot machine having a plurality of paylines, wherein said player must bet a plurality of monetary units  
15 to activate all paylines, wherein said secondary jackpot is paid to said player for said jackpot symbol combination appearing across any activated payline.

12. The system of Claim 1 wherein said gaming system includes at least one slot machine having a plurality of paylines, wherein said player must bet a plurality of monetary units  
20 to activate all paylines, wherein activating additional paylines also enables said player to win an additional jackpot in said plurality of progressive jackpots.

13. The system of Claim 1 wherein said gaming system includes at least one slot machine having a plurality of paylines, wherein said player must bet a plurality of monetary units  
to activate all paylines, wherein activating all paylines and betting additional monetary amounts  
enables said player to win an additional progressive jackpot amount.

14. The system of Claim 1 wherein said gaming system includes at least one slot machine having a plurality of paylines, wherein said player must bet a plurality of monetary units to activate all paylines, wherein said plurality of paylines comprises nine paylines.

15. A method performed by a gaming system having a monetary unit detector, a display portion displaying a plurality of rotatable reels, each reel having a plurality of symbols on its periphery, a controller for rotating said reels and stopping said reels such that at least one symbol on each reel is displayed across at least one payline, said method comprising:

10 causing a first jackpot to be enabled for winning by a player betting a first monetary amount and obtaining a jackpot symbol combination across any activated payline;

15 causing a second jackpot to be enabled for winning by said player betting a second monetary amount and obtaining a jackpot symbol combination across any activated payline; and

15 identifying an award payment to said player for winning combinations of symbols, including said first jackpot or said second jackpot, or both, for a jackpot symbol combination.

16. The method of Claim 15 further comprising displaying said rotatable reels rotated by motors.

20 17. The method of Claim 15 further comprising displaying said rotatable reels on a display screen.

18. The method of Claim 15 wherein said second monetary amount is greater than said first monetary amount.

25 19. The method of Claim 15 further comprising accumulating said first jackpot at X percent of monetary amounts received by said gaming system, and accumulating said second jackpot at Y percent of said monetary amounts received by said gaming system, wherein Y is greater than X.

20. The method of Claim 15 further comprising causing a third jackpot to be enabled for winning by said player betting a third monetary amount.

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5 21. The method of Claim 15 wherein said gaming system comprises a single slot machine, wherein said first jackpot and said seconnd jackpot are uniquely associated with said single slot machine.

22. The method of Claim 15 wherein said gaming system comprises a plurality of slot machines, said method further comprising accumulating said first jackpot and said second jackpot based on monetary amounts received by any of said slot machines in said group of slot machines.